

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-2, 5, 9, 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fourezon, U.S. Patent No. 4,680,213 in view of Harpell et al, U.S. patent No. 4,820,568 and Nakamura et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,641,763. Fourezon discloses a laminated textile reinforcement. The textile comprises warp direction yarns and weft direction yarns. The yarns can be cross laid so as to form a nonwoven structure. See col. 2, lines 60-66. The warp direction yarns are flat yarns which are not twisted and may comprise aramid fibers, glass fibers, carbon fibers, or other high strength fibers, (see col. 2, lines 2-32). The weft direction yarns can comprise sheath/core structure yarns. See col. 4, lines 23-29. Fourezon differs from the claimed invention because it does not disclose an offset of  $\frac{1}{2}$  pitch and does not disclose the claimed degree of flatness and does not disclose the particularly claimed components of the sheath/core yarns. With regard to the degree of flatness, while Fourezon does not disclose the claimed degree of flatness of 20-700, Fourezon clearly teaches that the warp fibers are in the form of flat strips constituted by a plurality of parallel filaments, and thus appear to structurally correspond to the claimed warp yarns. With regard to the offset of  $\frac{1}{2}$  pitch, Harpell teaches offsetting different layers of parallel fibers from each other as shown in figure 3 in order to prevent weakness, (col. 8, lines 44-47). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to

have offset the layers from each other as taught by Harpell in order to form a stronger material.

3. With regard to the composition of the sheath/core yarns, Nakamura teaches that it is known to form conjugate fibers having polyolefin as both the sheath and core. See examples. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have employed the particular conjugate fibers of Nakamura in the invention of Fourezon, motivated by their art recognized suitability for the intended purpose.

4. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Elizabeth M. Cole whose telephone number is (571) 272-1475. The examiner may be reached between 6:30 AM and 6:00 PM Monday through Wednesday, and 6:30 AM and 2 PM on Thursday.

The examiner's supervisor Rena Dye may be reached at (571) 272-3186.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

The fax number for all official faxes is (571) 273-8300.

/Elizabeth M. Cole/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794

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